

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 TRSE-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 ACDA-12 OES-07 AID-05
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R 251905Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 3289
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, FR, BR
SUBJ: FRENCH PRESIDENT POSTPONES VISIT TO BRAZIL

1. SUMMARY: BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY CONFIRMED
ON APRIL 21 THAT FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING WILL
NOT VISIT BRAZIL IN JUNE, BUT "PROBABLY IN OCTOBER".
DEFERRAL REPRESENTED THIRD TIME SINCE PRESIDENT
GEISEL'S TRIP TO PARIS IN APRIL 1976 THAT GISCARD
HAD POSTPONED PLANNED RETURN VISIT TO BRAZIL. RIO'S
JORNAL DO BRASIL AND O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO (APRIL 21)
SPECULATED AS TO REASONS FOR LATEST DELAY. END SUMMARY.

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN LUIZ FELIPE LAMPREIA
CONFIRMED TO PRESS APRIL 21 THAT GISCARD HAD WRITTEN
GEISEL APRIL 18 EXPLAINING THAT "INSTITUTIONAL
EUROPEAN REASONS" MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM
TO VISIT BRAZIL DURING JUNE BUT THAT HE
PROBABLY WOULD COME IN OCTOBER. VISIT HAD BEEN
TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 6-10, ALTHOUGH NO
OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF DATES HAD BEEN MADE.
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LAMPREIA SAID THAT GEISEL INDICATED HE UNDERSTOOD
REASONS FOR DELAY AND THAT OCTOBER VISIT WOULD
BE ACCEPTABLE. IN CITING FOREIGN MINISTRY STATE-
MENTS, BOTH JORNAL AND O ESTADO STRESSED THAT GOB
OFFICIALS, THOUGH DISAPPOINTED, REFUSED TO USE
WORD "CANCELLATION" BUT RATHER CONTINUED TO REFER
TO DISCARD'S CHANGE OF PLANS AS "POSTPONEMENT".

3. IN ADDITION TO THE MORE IMMEDIATE POLITICAL PROBLEMS REFERRED TO IN THE EXCHANGE OF PRESIDENTIAL NOTES, THE BRAZILIAN PRESS RAISED--AND SUBSEQUENTLY DISCOUNTED--THE HYPOTHESIS CONCERNING SUPPOSED FRENCH ANNOYANCE WITH REMARKS MADE BY ARENA PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE FIGUEIREDO DURING RECENT INTERVIEW IN FOLHA DE SAO PAULO (APRIL 5), IN WHICH HE QUESTIONED WHETHER FRANCE WAS INDEED A DEMOCRACY. THE PAPERS CITED A BACKGROUNDER COMMENT BY FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY PRESS DIRECTOR, M. BRESSON, TO THE EFFECT THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WAS NOT ABOUT TO REACT OFFICIALLY TO STATEMENTS OF A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE. O ESTADO QUOTED BRESSON AS CALLING THE FUTURE BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT INEXPERIENCED AND POORLY INFORMED, BUT HOPED THAT HE WILL HAVE LEARNED BY THE TIME GISCARD VISITED BRAZIL.

4. THRUST OF THE JORNAL AND O ESTADO ARTICLES WAS TO DISMISS CONCERNS OVER FURTHER DELAY IN GISCARD'S PLANS TO VISIT BRAZIL, COMPARING IT TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S INITIAL POSTPONEMENT OF HIS VISIT TO BRAZIL UNDER THE PRESSURE OF DOMESTIC LEGISLATIVE PROBLEMS. IT WAS CLEAR, OPINED BOTH PAPERS, THAT THE GROWING MUTUAL ECONOMIC INTERESTS OF BRAZIL AND FRANCE, CONFIDENTIAL

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ESPECIALLY IN NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE FIELDS, CALLED FOR A RENEWAL OF HIGH LEVEL NEGOTIATIONS. IN THIS LIGHT, CONCLUDED O ESTADO, IT WAS PERHAPS APPROPRIATE NOW FOR THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT TO USE ITS DIPLOMATIC MEANS TO REDUCE THE APPARENT BRAZILIAN DISAPPOINTMENT OVER GISCARD'S LATEST POSTPONEMENT OF HIS VISIT.

5. COMMENT: CONGEN SAO PAULO POLOFF SPOKE DURING PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT WITH JOURNALIST LUIS BARBOSA OF JORNAL DO BRASIL, WHO SAID HE HAD BEEN TOLD (OSTENSIBLY BEFORE PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT) BY BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY FRIENDS THAT GOB "CORRECTNESS" TOWARD PRESIDENT CARTER WAS TO BE CONTRASTED AS OBJECT LESSON BY DELIBERATELY WARM RECEPTION FOR GISCARD. BARBOSA SAID THAT GOB WAS RELYING ON FRANCE AS FALLBACK URANIUM SUPPLIER SHOULD URANIUM NOT BE FORTHCOMING FROM URENCO. BASING OPINION ON TALKS WITH HIS FRENCH DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS, BARBOSA CLAIMED THAT ITAMARATY WAS OPERATING UNDER FALSE ASSUMPTION THAT FRENCH WOULD WISH TO SELL ON STRICTLY COMMERCIAL BASIS. (O ESTADO APRIL 25 CONCLUDED THAT NUCLEAR COOPERATION BETWEEN GOB AND FRANCE WOULD INCREASE AS RESULT OF MINES AND ENERGY

MINISTER UEKI'S MEETINGS IN PARIS THIS WEEK WITH
FRENCH PRIME MINISTER AND THREE OTHER MINISTERS.)
IN ADDITION, POLOFF HAD BEEN TOLD PREVIOUSLY BY
FRENCH CONSUL IN SAO PAULO (MARRIED TO COUSIN OF
GIESEL'S WIFE) THAT GISCARD'S VISIT HAD BEEN
COMPLICATED BECAUSE OF GOB'S UNPOPULARITY WITH
FRENCH PUBLIC, OCCASIONED PARTLY BY GEISEL'S
RATHER COMPREHENSIVE EXPOSITION OF HIS AUTHORITARIAN
VIEWS OVER FRENCH TV LAST JULY. CONSUL THUS VIEWED
GISCARD'S PROPOSED VISIT TO BRAZIL AS SOMEWHAT OF A
DOMESTIC POLITICAL LIABILITY.
JOHNSON

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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